

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade  
December 2, 2013  
[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

Report Card Session	December 2
Report Cards Distributed	December 9

Dear Families,

### Report Card Information Session

Come learn about our new standards-based report card during an informational session for Holmes School parents and guardians. The session will be held on Monday, December 2 from 6 -7 pm in the Media Center. Mr. McCauley will guide you through the new report card and explain the connections to the Common Core State Standards.

### 5 for the Philippines

Student Council is sponsoring a fund drive to raise money to aid the disaster relief efforts in the Philippines. Student Council is asking students to donate 5 (pennies, dimes, quarters, dollars). Money collected will go to Oxfam International and Doctors Without Borders. Both of these organizations are already on the ground and working in the Philippines. Student Council will match donations, so please be generous.

### Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to begin practicing keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

---

### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) Guiseppe Arcimboldo was an Italian painter best known for creating imaginative portrait heads made entirely of such objects as fruits, vegetables, flowers, fish, and books – that is, he painted representations of these objects on the canvas arranged in such a way that the whole collection of objects formed a recognizable likeness of the portrait subject. He lived from 1527-1593. He started Surrealism. Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali picked up where he left off. Surrealism is a juxtaposition of everyday, common things in odd and surprising ways. We are finishing up a collage project where we traced the shadow of our silhouetted head on poster board and created a self-portrait using magazine and encyclopedia images to create surreal self-portraits.

**Music** - We will working on our pieces for the Spanish/Music Showcase this week and each class

will have an opportunity to perform one song in our music assembly at the end of the day Friday. Margaret and I will be sending out another notice with all the information for the showcase. Remember attendance is part of their grade so if your child cannot come on the evening of 12/10 please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org)

**Chorus** - Our next chorus performance will be Saturday, November 23rd at the Oak Park Arms. The permission slip was sent home. **If you do not receive it, please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).** We will be singing at the end of the year at a Chicago Sky (women's basketball) game at half time. The date is TBD because the season dates will not be decided on till January. I will need some parental help with this performance. If you are interested in being a chorus parent please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).

**Spanish** - Students will continue to work with their new story, Juan El Bombero, and prepare for the Spanish and Music showcase in December. The story will be posted to the blog this week, and students are encouraged to read the story to family and friends for 10 extra points. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - There will be a **brief meeting on Monday, December 2** for all reading olympians during recess (12:15) to prepare for this Wednesday's Holmes Reading Olympics competition! That's right: the reading olympics is this Wednesday, December 4 in the library media center, starting at 9:30 am. Winners of this competition will go on to the district level on Friday, December 13th at the Oak Park Public Library. The library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) .

**Physical Education** - ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) Heartland adventure is heading our way in p.e. for the entire month of November. This is an activity that teaches our boys and girls the functions of the circulatory and respiratory systems. Also our annual turkey trot is scheduled for November 25, 2013, more information to come.

### **Resource**

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

### **Reading/Literature**

This week we will begin exploring point of view. We'll discuss how we can see things differently than others and the questions we need to ask to turn ourselves into better readers. Students will be reading many short stories in an effort to understand this critical thinking skill.

### **Writing**

This week, students will begin working on a narrative essay. Students should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website.

### **Math**

This week, we turn our focus to multiplying and dividing with decimals. We will be using some of the same methods we used for multiplication and division of whole numbers (area model, partial quotients). We will also rely on place value knowledge and estimation to help with placement of the decimal point. We will work on multiplication this week, and division next week. There will be a short quiz on Friday.

### **Science**

This week we will begin our unit on variables. Students will learn the steps in the scientific method and the difference between independent and dependent variables. Students will learn to create and conduct experiments using variables and controls in class. This will lead to preparation for our science fair.

### **Social Studies**

This week we will begin to learn about the first settlements in North America. We will try to answer the question, "Why did the English want to create a settlement in America and what hardships did they face?" Students will learn about the colonies of Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth. One fun activity we will do is take a virtual tour of the Plymouth colony online.

Current Events will continue this week. Anyone who was unable to present during their assigned date will be asked to present. All the materials are available on our Wiki (<http://5k-socialstudies.wikispaces.com/home>).

### **Spelling/Word Study**

We will be having Spelling Words this week. Students did an excellent job studying for the last test! We will continue to use the Spelling Menu as homework. Students must choose three activities a week. The activities are due Friday.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

### **We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner  
[afinkbeiner@op97.org](mailto:afinkbeiner@op97.org)

Ms. Kraft  
[fkraft@op97.org](mailto:fkraft@op97.org)

Ms. Manuel  
[mmanuel@op97.org](mailto:mmanuel@op97.org)

Ms. Zucker  
[azucker@op97.org](mailto:azucker@op97.org)